

Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight

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behalf of one or more entities that would be ineligible for an award is not itself eligible for an award.

[65 FR 26732, May 9, 2000. Redesignated and amended at 65 FR 81328, Dec. 26, 2000]

§ 1705.4 Standards for awards.

(a) An eligible party that files an application for award of fees and other expenses in accordance with this part shall receive an award of fees and other expenses related to defending against a demand of OFHEO if the demand was in excess of the decision in the underlying adversary adjudication and was unreasonable when compared with the decision under the facts and circumstances of the case, unless the party has committed a willful violation of law or otherwise acted in bad faith, or unless special circumstances make an award unjust. The burden of proof that the demand of OFHEO was substantially in excess of the decision and is unreasonable when compared with the decision is on the eligible party.

(b) An eligible party that submits an application for award in accordance with this part shall receive an award of fees and other expenses incurred in connection with an adversary adjudication in which it prevailed or in a significant and discrete substantive portion of the adversary adjudication in which it prevailed, unless the position of OFHEO in the adversary adjudication was substantially justified or special circumstances make an award unjust. OFHEO has the burden of proof to show that its position was substantially justified and may do so by showing that its position was reasonable in law and in fact.

§ 1705.5 Allowable fees and expenses.

(a) Awards of fees and other expenses shall be based on rates customarily charged by persons engaged in the business of acting as attorneys, agents, and expert witnesses, even if the services were made available without charge or at a reduced rate to the party. However, except as provided in § 1705.6, an award for the fee of an attorney or agent may not exceed \$125 per hour and an award to compensate an expert witness may not exceed the highest rate at which OFHEO pays expert witnesses. However, an award may also include

the reasonable expenses of the attorney, agent, or expert witness as a separate item if he or she ordinarily charges clients separately for such expenses.

(b) In determining the reasonableness of the fee sought for an attorney, agent, or expert witness, the adjudicative officer shall consider the following:

(1) If the attorney, agent, or expert witness is in private practice, his or her customary fees for similar services; or, if the attorney, agent, or expert witness is an employee of the eligible party, the fully allocated costs of the services;

(2) The prevailing rate for similar services in the community in which the attorney, agent, or expert witness ordinarily performs services;

(3) The time actually spent in the representation of the eligible party;

(4) The time reasonably spent in light of the difficulty or complexity of the issues in the adversary adjudication; and

(5) Such other factors as may bear on the value of the services provided.

(c) In determining the reasonable cost of any study, analysis, engineering report, test, project, or similar matter prepared on behalf of a party, the adjudicative officer shall consider the prevailing rate for similar services in the community in which the services were performed.

(d) Fees and other expenses incurred before the date on which an adversary adjudication was initiated will be awarded only if the eligible party can demonstrate that they were reasonably incurred in preparation for the adversary adjudication.

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§ 1705.6 Rulemaking on maximum rate for fees.

If warranted by an increase in the cost of living or by special circumstances, OFHEO may adopt regulations providing for an award of attorney or agent fees at a rate higher than \$125 per hour in adversary adjudications covered by this part. Special circumstances include the limited availability of attorneys or agents who are

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qualified to handle certain types of adversary adjudications. OFHEO will conduct any rulemaking proceedings for this purpose under the informal rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. 553.

§ 1705.7 Awards against other agencies.

If another agency of the United States participates in an adversary adjudication before OFHEO and takes a position that was not substantially justified, the award or appropriate portion of the award to an eligible party that prevailed over that agency shall be made against that agency.

§§ 1705.8–1705.9 [Reserved]

Subpart B—Information Required from Applicants

§ 1705.10 Contents of the application for award.

(a) An application for award of fees and other expenses under either § 1705.4(a) and § 1705.4(b) shall:

(1) Identify the applicant and the adversary adjudication for which an award is sought;

(2) State the amount of fees and other expenses for which an award is sought;

(3) Provide the statements and documentation required by paragraph (b) or (c) of this section and § 1705.12 and any additional information required by the adjudicative officer; and

(4) Be signed by the applicant or an authorized officer or attorney of the applicant and contain or be accompanied by a written verification under oath or under penalty of perjury that the information provided in the application is true and correct.

(b) An application for award under § 1705.4(a) shall show that the demand of OFHEO was substantially in excess of, and was unreasonable when compared to, the decision in the underlying adversary adjudication under the facts and circumstances of the case. It shall also show that the applicant is a small entity as defined in 5 U.S.C. 601.

(c) An application for award under § 1705.4(b) shall:

(1) Show that the applicant has prevailed in a significant and discrete sub-

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stantive portion of the underlying adversary adjudication and identify the position of OFHEO in the adversary adjudication that the applicant alleges was not substantially justified;

(2) State the number of employees of the applicant and describe briefly the type and purposes of its organization or business (if the applicant is not an individual);

(3) State that the net worth of the applicant does not exceed \$2 million, if the applicant is an individual; or for all other applicants, state that the net worth of the applicant and its affiliates, if any, does not exceed \$7 million; and

(4) Include one of the following:

(i) A detailed exhibit showing the net worth (net worth exhibit) of the applicant and its affiliates, if any, when the underlying adversary adjudication was initiated. The net worth exhibit may be in any form convenient to the applicant as long as the net worth exhibit provides full disclosure of the assets and liabilities of the applicant and its affiliates, if any, and is sufficient to determine whether the applicant qualifies as an eligible party;

(ii) A copy of a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service that shows that the applicant qualifies as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3); or in the case of a tax-exempt organization not required to obtain a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service on its exempt status, a statement that describes the basis for the belief that the applicant qualifies under such section; or

(iii) A statement that the applicant is a cooperative association as defined in section 15(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1141j(a).

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§ 1705.11 Request for confidentiality of net worth exhibit.

(a) The net worth exhibit described in § 1705.10(c)(4)(i) shall be included in the public record of the proceeding for the award of fees and other expenses, except if confidential treatment is requested and granted as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.